



Executive Order

Immediate Advanced Practice Changes for COVID-19 Response

April 2, 2020

The Alabama Board of Nursing presents a summary of the changes related to emergency order issued by Governor Ivey today. For APRNs, CNOs, and employers a power point is included, outlining the changes, as well as an employer tracking spreadsheet related to licensure and advance practice approval for the CRNP, CNM, and CRNA.

CRNAs - What are the differences from current practice?

- Licensed healthcare facility (LHF) based CRNA practice allows direction from the CMO or designee, which frees the CRNA to practice in any area of the facility, such as ED, ICU or elsewhere.
- Broadens and allows CRNAs to provide full scope of practice and employ the full complement of their unique skills outside the perioperative period, Example: ICUS, EDs, Ventilator units, or as needed (**whether or not associated with the provision of anesthesia**).
- Broadens CRNA practice through facility protocols. The LHF can develop CRNA-related protocols supportive of patient care, based on the scope of practice for a CRNA. CRNAs are authorized to **perform all skills as authorized in the facility protocols**.
- A facility can have an unlimited number of CRNAs.
- CRNAs do not need to submit applications for approval, as record-keeping will occur at the facility level. No approval fees are required during this crisis period.

Scope of practice linked below:

[https://www.aana.com/docs/default-source/practice-aana-com-web-documents-\(all\)/scope-of-nurse-anesthesia-practice.pdf?sfvrsn=250049b1_2](https://www.aana.com/docs/default-source/practice-aana-com-web-documents-(all)/scope-of-nurse-anesthesia-practice.pdf?sfvrsn=250049b1_2)



CRNP/CNM – What are the differences from current practice?

- Licensed healthcare facility (LHF) based CRNP/CNM practice allows collaboration with the CMO or designee, which may be in specific patient locations within the hospital such as ED, ICU or elsewhere in the facility. The CRNP/CNM may practice to their full scope of practice based on education and training. In addition, CRNP/CNMs are authorized to prescribe from a facility-approved formulary and perform all skills authorized in the facility protocols. (controlled substance prescribing requires DEA registration through the ABME). **Allows for the CMO or designee to have unlimited collaborations.**
- Broadens what a CRNP/CNM can do through facility protocol. The LHF can develop related CRNP/CNM protocols supportive of patient care, based on the scope of practice for a CRNP/CNM.
- A facility can have an unlimited number of CRNP/CNM. An application is not required as the LHF will perform record keeping for this. There is no fee associated with the LTF approval during this crisis period.

CRNP Core Competencies Link provided below:

- <https://www.abn.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NP-Core-Competencies.pdf>

CRNP/CNM – Outside of licensed healthcare facility's- What are the differences from current practice?

- Non-LHF collaborations move to 9 FTEs practicing under current approved protocols and formulary.
- Outside of an LHF the CRNP/CNM must submit an emergency application to the ABN by email with no fee requirement during this crisis period.

CRNP Standard Protocols and Formulary links provided below:

<https://www.abn.alabama.gov/advanced-practice-nursing/>

<https://www.abn.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/CRNP-CNM-Standard-Formulary.pdf>



Clinical Nurse Specialists – There are no changes to CNS practice at this time

As a reminder:

- A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a registered nurse, who has graduate level nursing preparation, including supervised practice, at the master's or doctoral level as a CNS.
- They are clinical experts in evidence-based nursing practice within a specialty area, treating and managing the health concerns of patients and populations as evidenced by national certification as a CNS. A clinical nurse specialist may perform permitted independent nursing services as an independent contractor.
- The CNS may be utilized in many clinical settings and assist in detailed Advanced patient assessments and practice by facility protocols as well.

The independent framework for contracts is linked below for your information

- <https://www.abn.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CNS-Independent-Contract-Framework-9-2018.pdf>